

## Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /096 W  
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R 231251Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9893  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: REF  
SUBJ: CONTINUING FLOW OF REFUGEES FROM KAMPUCHEA

REF BANGKOK 21758

1. SUMMARY: THERE WERE OVER 600 KHMER REFUGEES IN TA PHRAYA DISTRICT AS OF AUGUST 20. THE REFUGEES ARE ARRIVING AT A RATE OF 30 TO 50 A DAY. ALMOST ALL ARE MALE, AND MOST STATE THEY ARE FLEEING FROM WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS A WIDER PURGE NOW TAKING EFFECT IN THEIR VILLAGES. THE REFUGEES ARE IN AN OPEN FIELD WITHOUT SUFFICIENT SHELTER. THE UNHCR IS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO TRY TO ARRANGE THE TRANSFER OF THE REFUGEES TO THE UNHCR-SUPPORTED KHMER REFUGEE CAMP AT ARANYAPRATHET, AND THE UNHCR HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT 242 WERE MOVED TO ARANYAPRATHET ON AUGUST 22. END SUMMARY.

2. THE INCREASING FLOW OF KHMER REFUGEES INTO THAILAND BEGAN IN LATE JULY (REFTEL). AS OF AUGUST 20, THERE  
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WERE OVER 600 REFUGEES AT TA PHRAYA DISTRICT, ABOUT 50 KILOMETERS NORTH OF ARANYAPRATHET IN PRACHINBURI PROVINCE. THEY ARE MAINLY FROM NORTHERN BATTAMBANG PROVINCE IN KAMPUCHEA.

3. THE INFLUX APPEARS TO BE BASED LARGELY ON THE WIDE-SPREAD FEAR OF A PURGE THAT IS SAID TO INCLUDE ANY

FORMER SOLDIERS OR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, NO MATTER HOW LOWLY IN RANK, AND ALL TEACHERS. IN MANY INSTANCES, FARMERS WITH NO AFFILIATION WITH THE FORMER GOVERNMENT ARE ALSO APPARENTLY BEING EXECUTED. REFUGEES SAY THAT WHEREAS THE KHMER ROUGE USED TO ISSUE THREE WARNINGS BEFORE THERE WAS SUFFICIENT REASON FOR EXECUTION, THEY NOW ISSUE NONE AT ALL. ALMOST ALL OF THE ARRIVALS ARE MALES WHO HAVE LEFT THEIR FAMILIES BEHIND. THEY BELIEVE THAT WIVES AND CHILDREN STAND A BETTER CHANCE IN THEIR HOME VILLAGES THAN BY TAKING THE ARDUOUS AND HAZARDOUS TREK TO THAILAND. KHMER ROUGE GUNFIRE DISPERSES MANY ESCAPE GROUPS. MOST WOULD-BE REFUGEES FAIL TO REACH THAILAND BECAUSE THEY ARE WOUNDED, KILLED OR BECOME LOST OR EXHAUSTED ENROUTE. MANY OF THE NEW ARRIVALS HAVE BEEN WOUNDED BY KHMER ROUGE GUNFIRE, MINES, OR BOOBY-TRAPS. BECAUSE THE REFUGEES FOR THE MOST PART SAY THEY HAVE FLED IN FEAR OF A NEW PURGE IN KAMPUCHEA, THEY PREDICT THAT OTHER KHMER WILL FOLLOW.

4. THE RTG FEEDS THE REFUGEES AT TA PHRAYA DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS. THE UNHCR HAS INDIRECTLY SUPPLIED SOME MONEY FOR RATIONS, BUT HAS NOT FUNDED FULL RATIONS OR CONSTRUCTION OF SHELTERS IN THE HOPE OF NOT ENCOURAGING THE RTG TO SET UP ANOTHER PERMANENT CAMP AT TA PHRAYA. SOME RUDIMENTARY SHELTERS ARE NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED USING VOLUNTARY AGENCY FUNDS. THE IRC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEDICAL TEAM IS PROVIDING SOME MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

5. THE UNHCR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IS CONTINUING TO PRESS THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO MOVE THE REFUGEES. HE HAS SUPPLIED THE RTG WITH A LIST OF SOME 350 NAMES OF REFUGEES AT TA PHRAYA WHO HAVE RELATIVES AT ARANYA-PRATHET REFUGEE CAMP, AND 242 WERE MOVED TO THE CAMP ON AUGUST 22. VOLUNTARY AGENCY EMERGENCY RELIEF EFFORT HAS NOT BEEN WELL COORDINATED. JVA IS NOW SEEKING A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO IMPROVE THE RESPONSE. IN OUR CONTACTS WITH SENIOR OFFICERS AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, WE ARE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE UNHCR'S EFFORTS TO HAVE THE REFUGEES MOVED INTO THE REGULAR REFUGEE CAMP. WE WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE VOLUNTARY AGENCY RELIEF EFFORT AND PRESS ADDITIONAL RELIEF MEASURES AS NEEDED. ABRAMOWITZ

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DATA, REFUGEES, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BANGKO24339  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Reference:** 78 BANGKOK 21758  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONTINUING FLOW OF REFUGEES FROM KAMPUCHEA  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014